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October 3, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Neal:

The American College of Radiology (ACR), a professional organization representing more than 36,000 diagnostic radiologists, interventional radiologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians, and medical physicists, would like to express our strong support for H.R. 849, *the Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2017*. ACR appreciates the committee's leadership in advancing legislation to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB).

Created by the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, IPAB is intended to control Medicare spending through the use of targeted spending reductions and a fast-track legislative process. Since the beginning of the health care reform debates in 2009, the ACR has consistently expressed opposition to the creation of this 15 member bureaucratic entity overseeing physician reimbursement.

Our organization is deeply troubled by the Board's composition of unelected officials which would eliminate the opportunity for patients and physicians to raise grievances with Congress regarding Medicare payment rates. We believe that IPAB sets a dangerous precedent for overriding the normal legislative process and we strongly protest a process in which elected officials would shed their ability to adequately represent patients and constituents. Furthermore, IPAB's recommendations will unfairly target physician costs within the overall health care system, potentially prompting doctors to no longer accept Medicare patients, thus threatening patient access to care. Although we applaud efforts by Congress to control the ever-increasing cost of health care in the United States, the ACR is gravely concerned that IPAB will become an unregulated autonomous seat of power with the ability to influence medical care, without answering to the very people whose lives it will affect.

In short, ACR stands united with our colleagues in the House of Medicine in opposition to IPAB. Should you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Moran, Executive Vice President, Government Relations, Economics and Health Policy, either via phone, 202-223-1670, or email, [cmoran@acr.org](mailto:cmoran@acr.org).

Sincerely,

Cynthia R. Moran  
Executive Vice President, Government Relations, Economics, and Health Policy  
American College of Radiology

Cc: The Honorable Pat Tiberi, Chairman, Subcommittee on Health  
The Honorable Sander Levin, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health

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